

The North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

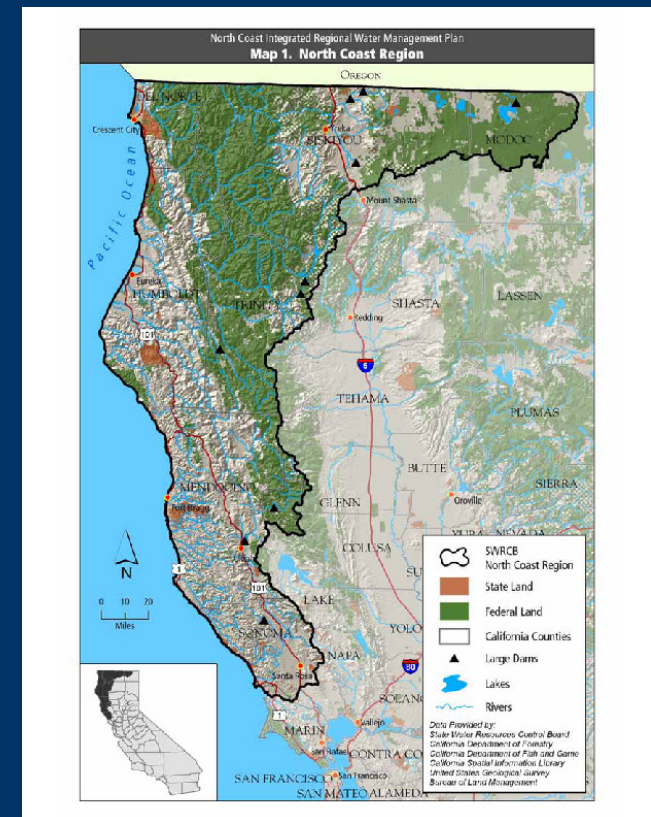
- Regional Overview
- History
- Governance & Technical Review
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Planning Process
- Observations



California's North Coast

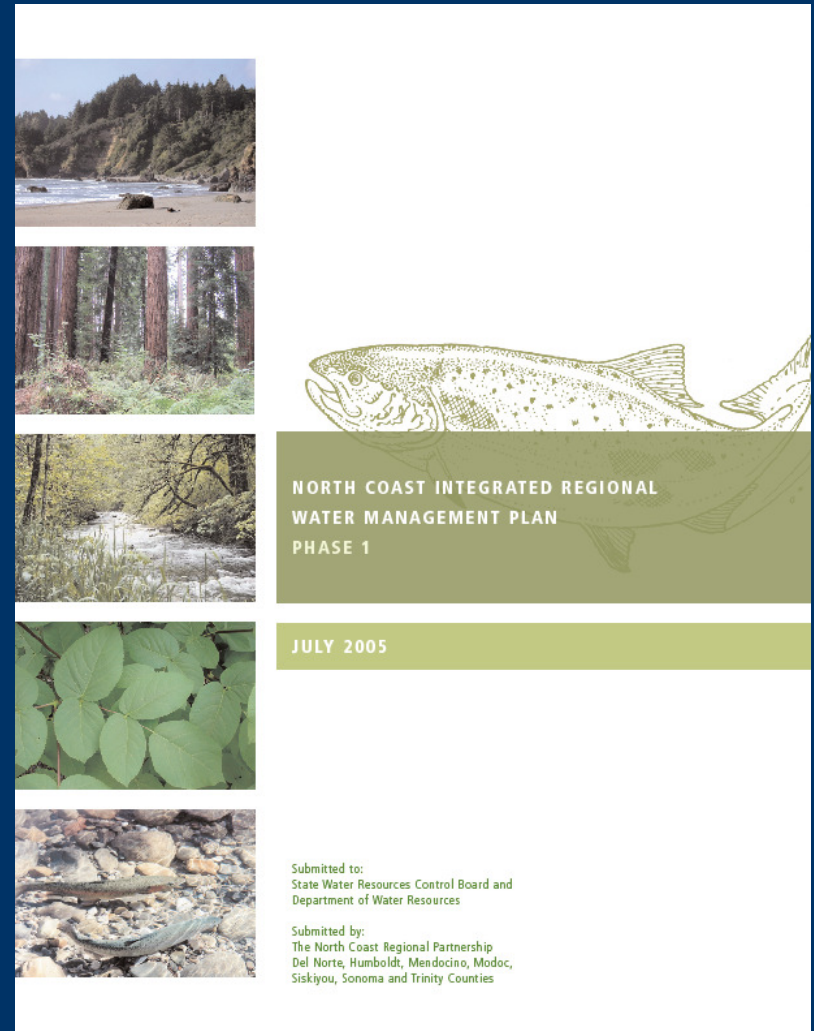
a unique region with a unique identity

- Size of region
- Physical and Biotic features
 - Intact fisheries and watersheds
 - Not connected via infrastructure
- Population
 - Relatively low, expected to increase
- Demographics & Socio-economic trends
 - Different lifestyles and outlooks
 - Financial challenges
 - Changing economies & opportunities
- Need for regional planning
 - Similar issues/challenges
 - Regional cooperation = effectiveness and more funding resources



The North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

- Started in Fall 2004
- Established regional boundary: emphasis on jurisdictional & watershed boundaries
- Convened policy & technical leadership
- Established Memorandum of Mutual Understandings
- Stakeholder outreach & technical assistance
- Plan development (NCIRWMP & sub-basin/sub-region planning)
- Project implementation



Governance & Leadership

- Policy Review Panel – composition and role
- Decision making by local elected officials
- All meetings are open & welcoming to the public, with agenda time for stakeholder input
- Emphasis on transparent decision-making, regional equity, collaboration, and fairness



Technical Peer Review Committee

- Ecologists, geologists, engineers, planners
- Scientific and technical evaluation of plan
- Scientific and technical evaluation of projects
- Preliminary project ranking



North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Objectives

- Viable salmon populations
- Protect and enhance the beneficial uses of water
- Local autonomy & intra-regional cooperation
- Enhance public health/economic vitality in disadvantaged communities



Stakeholder Involvement

- Emphasis on stakeholder outreach and participation by all: agencies, municipalities, NGOs, RCDs, tribal governments and groups, private businesses, landowner organizations
- North Coast IRWMP website: tool for information exchange
- Workshops and meetings in every county
- North Coast conference
- Technical support for project proponents



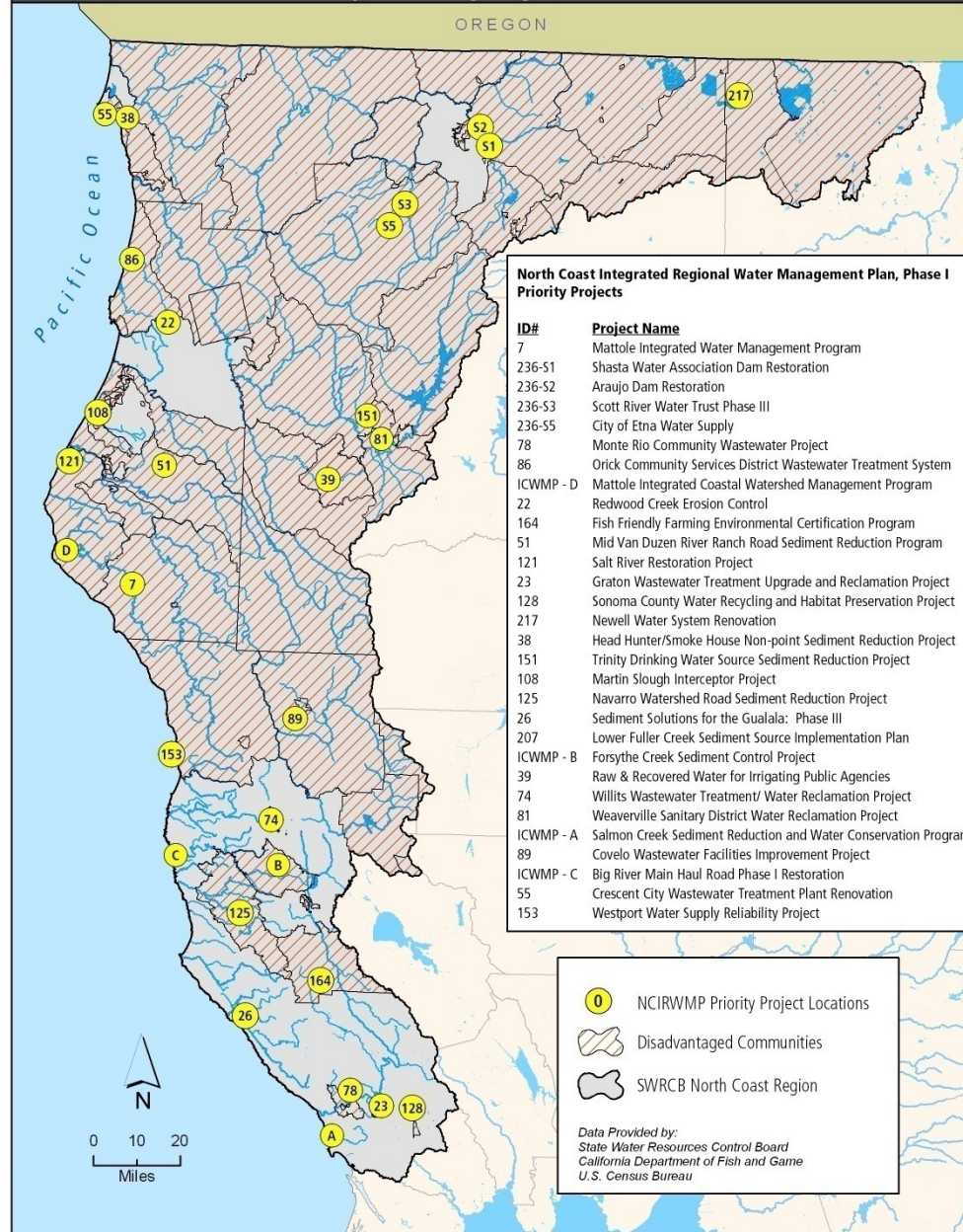
Planning Process

- Regional goals and objectives – local implementation
- 123 projects identified and ranked: over \$500 million need
- Compilation and synthesis of data and planning information from throughout the region
- Adaptive management framework
- GIS Database for analysis
- Responsiveness to SWRCB/DWR IRWM program guidelines and other state and federal priorities (eg, CDFG, SCC, NOAA, EPA)
- NCIRWMP synchronizes state objectives with local priorities, while retaining local autonomy
- Draft plan incorporated substantial stakeholder input
- Local watershed & general plans incorporated into NCIRWMP
- Multiple spatial scales: Pacific Coast, North Coast region, county, watershed, project site

NCIRWMP Funding Status

- Top twenty high priority projects underway via round one implementation grant with SWRCB
- Current planning grants and local match for planning exceeds \$1.5 million
- North Coast implementation grants ranked #1 in California during round one and round two
- Round two proposal = \$ 8 million for coastal projects focused on sediment reduction and marine health (recommended \$0-\$2 million)
- Millions in local match for projects
- Leverage – existing planning and project identification provides access to other sources of funding
- Future allocation of \$37 million to the North Coast region via Proposition 84

North Coast Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan
Map 16. Priority Project Locations





BEFORE



AFTER



Some Observations: Successes & Challenges

- Policy Review Panel: commitment to transparency, integrity, common ground, cooperation “no county left behind”
- Need political and process integration to achieve on-the-ground integration
- Integration on key issues that have impacts at a regional and statewide level, whose solutions are mostly driven at the local level (eg salmon, ecosystem health, water quality, regional economy)
- Relatively low-cost measures will result in substantial public benefit – both within and beyond the region



Some Observations: Successes & Challenges

- One size does not fit all – respect for local knowledge and priorities while working in a regional framework
- Region is in a state of flux/undergoing change – planning for opportunity and the future
- Support from SWRCB and DWR – financial and technical
- Commitment and support from counties
- Critical planning and support funding from Sonoma County Water Agency
- Emphasis on scientific and technical review
- More outreach and technical assistance
- Love/hate for economic analysis
- Collaborating with and learning from other regions

